

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

The following listing reflects amendments to the claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated, immunogenic, mutant non-structural (“NS”) HCV polypeptide comprising a mutant NS3 polypeptide, an NS4 polypeptide and an NS5 polypeptide, wherein the mutant NS3 polypeptide has an N-terminal deletion that functionally disrupts the catalytic domain of NS3 and further wherein said mutant NS3 polypeptide has an N-terminus at an amino acid corresponding to amino acid 1242 of HCV-1 and comprises an amino acid sequence corresponding to amino acids 1242-1657 of HCV-1.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said NS polypeptide consists of said mutant NS3 polypeptide, NS4 and NS5.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said NS5 polypeptide consists of NS5a.

8. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said NS5 polypeptide consists of NS5b.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said NS4 polypeptide consists of NS4a.

11. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said NS4 polypeptide consists of NS4b.

12. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, further comprising a second viral polypeptide that is not NS3, NS4 or NS5 of HCV.

13. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 12, wherein the second viral polypeptide comprises an HCV Core polypeptide ("C") or immunogenic fragment thereof.

14. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 13, wherein the C polypeptide is truncated.

15. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the truncation is at amino acid 121.

16. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 12, wherein the polypeptide further comprises an HCV envelope protein ("E").

17. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the E is E1.

18. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the E is E2.

19. (Original) A composition comprising

(a) the polypeptide of claim 1; and

(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide comprises the sequence of amino acids of SEQ ID NO:9.

33-42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide consists of the sequence of amino acids of SEQ ID NO:9.

47. (Previously presented) A composition comprising
(a) the polypeptide of claim 12; and
(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

48. (Previously presented) A composition comprising
(a) the polypeptide of claim 32; and
(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously presented) A composition comprising
(a) the polypeptide of claim 46; and
(b) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.